

CLAIMS

5 1. Programming interface for developing applications using a secured call between a first software element and a second software element, said programming interface being an object-oriented interface and including methods adapted to manage said secured call, characterized in that said methods belong to one only of the following classes:

- a first class (ISCC) including methods of initiating said secured call,
- a second class (ASCC) including methods of accepting said secured call,
- a third class (SECC) including methods for bidirectional exchange of

10 messages via said secured call or the secured closure of said call, and in that said three classes are structured in a hierarchy in which said first and second classes inherit from said third class.

15 2. Programming interface according to the preceding claim characterized in that said methods conform to the GSS-API specifications of the IETF.

3. Method of developing applications using a secured call between a first software element and a second software element, said software elements being object-oriented elements and using methods to manage said secured call, characterized in that said methods belong to one only of the following classes:

- a first class (ISCC) including methods of initiating said secured call,
- a second class (ASCC) including methods of accepting said secured call,
- a third class (SECC) including methods for bidirectional exchange of

20 messages via said secured call or the secured closure of said call, and in that said three classes are structured in a hierarchy in which said first and second classes inherit from said third class.

25 4. Method according to the preceding claim characterized in that said methods conform to the GSS-API specifications of the IETF.